

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BERN 5198

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TAGS: OGEN PFOR UNESCO SZ
SUBJ: UNESCO 19TH GENERAL CONFERENCE: DRAFT RESOLUTIONS ON
JERUSALEM EXCAVATIONS AND EDUCATION AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES
IN ISRAELI-OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES - SWISS POSITION

REF: STATE 278661

1. WE HAVE MADE DEMARCHE TO DR PAUL STAUFFER, CHIEF,
UNESCO SECTION, FEDERAL POLITICAL DEPT. THE FPD
IS FULLY AWARE OF THE EFFECT PASSAGE OF THESE TWO RESOLUTIONS
WOULD HAVE ON PUBLIC OPINION IN THE US. THE
REACTION IN SWITZERLAND WOULD BE SIMILAR.

2. ACCORDING STAUFFER INSTRUCTIONS ARE NOW BEING DRAFTED
REFLECTING FOLLOWING SWISS POSITION:

3. ON JERUSALEM EXCAVATIONS. SWISS WILL VOTE AGAINST
SANCTIONS, AND POSSIBLE RESOLUTION AS A WHOLE IF, AS
PRESENTED FOR VOTE, IT CONTAINS SANCTIONS THAT GO BEYOND
THOSE CONTAINED IN THE 18TH GC RESOLUTION. SWISS WILL
ABSTAIN ON RESOLUTION AS A WHOLE IF THE SANCTIONS DO NOT
GO BEYOND THE 18TH GC RESOLUTION.

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4. ON OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. SWISS AGREE THAT ART 8

PREJUDGES OUTCOME OF ANY INVESTIGATION AND THEIR DELEGATION WILL BE INSTRUCTED TO VOTE AGAINST IT. THE SWISS WILL ABSTAIN ON THE RESOLUTION AS A WHOLE AS AT THE 18TH GC. IF PARA 8 IS INCLUDED, THEY MIGHT VOTE AGAINST THE RESOLUTION, BUT THIS HAS NOT BEEN DECIDED.

5. THEY WILL LOBBY AGAINST SACTIONS AND AGAINST PARA 8 INOCCUPIED TERRITORIES RESOLUTION, AND ARE HOPEFUL OF SUPPORT FROM BLACK AFRICAN COUNTRIES.

6. SWISS ARE AMONG THOSE WHO ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE ISRAELI POSITION ON THESE ISSUES. IN THEIR VIEW ISRAEL HAS CLEARLY EXCEEDED ITS RIGHTS AS AN OCCUPYING POWER, WHICH MAKES SWISS POSITION DIFFICULT.

7. EMBASSY COMMENT: EXPANDING SWISS TRADE WITH ARAB COUNTRIES IS ALSO A FACTOR.
DAVIS

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